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have such a chance to show immediate financial results as this. If the activity of the enemy could be reduced one per cent. it would increase revenue over \$10,000 per year.

It is therefore suggested that the activities of the killer whale be thoroughly investigated in its relation to the fur-seal herd. To do so, will require the services of a well-equipped vessel. It should be provided with a whale gun and a man to shoot it, because some of the animals would have to be killed.

The stomachs of the killers taken should of course be examined. It may be asked why the preliminary work can not be done by the shore whaling stations, but it so happens that almost every cetacean known is commercially valuable except the killer. From the diminutive porpoise to the huge sulphurbottom all are taken but the orca, and it is left entirely alone. Therefore, the fur-seal question can not be studied on shore, where whales are utilized commercially without special arrangements being made for the capture of the killers.

If the killer be found the great destroyer of fur seals which is suspected, then methods for its destruction should be devised. In lieu of submarines, it might be made the object of target practice of navy gunners. Or a bounty might be offered, so as to make them commercially profitable for whalers to handle. Or what is probably best of all such suggestions, fully equip whaling vessels to scour the seas, just as sheep men of the west keep coyote hunters constantly on duty.

G. DALLAS HANNA

THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

LOSS FROM ANIMAL DISEASES

THE Advisory Committee, appointed by the British Development Commission in 1920, has issued its report on the facilities now available for the scientific study of the diseases of animals, and improvements recommended. Sir David Prain was chairman of the committee.

According to an abstract in the *London Times*, the present value of cattle, sheep, and pigs in the United Kingdom is estimated, the report states, at between four and five million pounds. The Scottish Animal Diseases Re-

search Association estimates the annual loss from disease in Scotland at close on £1,000,000, and the committee thinks that the loss in England and Wales must be four times the loss in Scotland. The facilities for research at the five veterinary colleges in the United Kingdom and Ireland "constitute a national disgrace." The sum allocated to veterinary research is "trifling in comparison with the sums set aside for medical, agricultural, and fishery research." There are certain existing facilities at universities, medical schools, the Brown Institution, and attached to the English and Irish Departments of Agriculture and to the Royal Army Veterinary Corps. In South Africa there is a model organization for the study of animal diseases, £123,447 having been spent during the year 1920-21 on veterinary education and research. In India immense opportunities are almost wholly neglected. Leaving out of account the work in South Africa, the state of research into animal diseases within the empire is at present lamentable.

The committee advocates (with reservations by Sir Walter Fletcher) increased salaries to workers of proved capacity at Camden Town, and a capital grant for new laboratories there. It suggests that facilities for research should be placed at the disposal of the Royal Army Veterinary Corps, and that a sum should be set aside annually by the commissioners for special researches into animal diseases.

With regard to the training of investigators, it anticipates that a large proportion will come from the veterinary profession. It is against the increase in the number of universities with veterinary faculties, but wishes more money to be given to the existing veterinary colleges. It proposes that the Development Commission should appoint a diseases of animals research committee, the majority of whom should be men of science. To this new body all applications for grants from the development fund for research into the diseases of animals should be referred.

THE CALIFORNIA STATE FISHERIES LABORATORY

THE State of California, through its Fish and Game Commission, has constructed a laboratory in East San Pedro, at Los Angeles

Harbor, for the study of the biology of the fishes utilized in the now very large sardine and tuna canning industries. The state government has found that such studies are an imperative necessity in the exercise of its legal control over the fisheries. They are necessary, not merely for the determination of biological facts bearing directly upon methods of conservation, but also for the interpretation of the statistics which are now collected by the state for the purpose of observing the condition of the fisheries. The statistical system used is unique, and has proved its independence of the errors usually introduced by statistics gathered by personal inquiry, but the perfection of the data thus gathered does not eliminate, but rather enlarges the importance of biological knowledge and hence of laboratory work.

The building is of reinforced concrete, two stories in height, and of modified Spanish architecture with red tile roof. There are sufficient accommodations for from six to ten research workers in the three laboratories and work room. A large library room, a file room, a dark room and store room are also provided.

It is hoped to collect a library upon fishery subjects which will be very complete, and to that end a number of the important periodicals in the field have been purchased in their entirety. However, aside from the publications of the International Council for the Investigation of the Sea, there are not a great many such periodicals, and the real sparseness of our knowledge of the commercial fishes is emphasized by their lack.

The permanence of the laboratory is assured by the existence of a law specifying the collection of the statistics and the biological investigations necessary. It is felt that it will be very difficult for reactionary interests to repeal the law, or to attack the funds collected by special taxes for the maintenance of the work. Dependence upon appropriations made from year to year has proved disastrous in the case of the federal government and in those of a number of states, and it is to be hoped that such a system as is in existence in California will remain independent of appropriations.

The biological problems which face the

fishery expert are wide in scope and will inevitably interest the ecologist and the systematist. For their solution vast quantities of materials are available in the canneries and fish markets, while the detailed records of the catch which are gathered provide a basis for a real science of vital statistics of the fisheries. Men interested along such lines will be cordially welcomed in the new laboratory, in so far as its accommodations are adequate.

WILL F. THOMPSON

MATHEMATICAL PUBLICATIONS

THE *Bulletin* of the American Mathematical Society contains several notes concerning mathematical publications from which we quote.

The council of the society has received an offer from an anonymous donor to pay the cost, up to \$4,000, of an extra volume of the *Transactions* of the society, to be brought out promptly. This extra volume will be sent without charge to all subscribers and exchanges now on the list.

Mrs. Mary Hegeler Carus, as trustee for the Edward C. Hegeler Trust Fund, has given to the Mathematical Association of America the sum of \$1,200 annually for five years for the purpose of publishing a series of monographs whose purpose should be to popularize mathematics by making accessible at nominal cost the best thoughts and keenest researches in this field set forth in expository form comprehensible to teachers and students of mathematics and to other readers of mathematical intelligence. The deed of gift includes the promise to capitalize this annual income by a permanent endowment fund if at the end of five years the project shall have proved successful.

The members of the division of mathematics of Harvard University have constituted themselves an informal committee to solicit contributions to relieve the present financial need of the *Jahrbuch über die Fortschritte der Mathematik*. The deficit for the coming fiscal year will amount to about \$1,000. The editor, Professor L. Lichtenstein, has appealed for aid. The Emergency Society for German and Austrian Science and Art, which last year appropriated 20,500 marks for the *Jahrbuch*, contemplates the continuance of its support, sub-